

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 084870

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AORG, UN, ECOSOC, GR
SUBJECT: DIRECTORSHIP OF UN CENTER FOR TRANSNATIONAL
CORPORATIONS

REF: (A) USUN 1151, (B) STATE 6805

1. APPRECIATE REFTEL A. MISSION SHOULD RECALL THAT NAMES OF FOIGHEL, BUTLER, AND SEVERAL OTHERS WERE ORIGINALLY PUT FORWARD IN CIRCULAR CABLE (REF B) INTENDED TO STIMULATE CANDIDACIES OF PERSONS LIKELY TO BE MORE ACCEPTABLE TO USG THAN SOMAVIA, WHO WAS THEN THE ONLY ANNOUNCED CANDIDATE. OF THE CANDIDATES WHO HAVE THUS FAR BEEN PUT FORWARD, FOIGHEL IS CLEARLY THE MOST DESIRABLE FROM US STANDPOINT. ON THAT BASIS, MISSION WAS ASKED TO INDICATE OUR SUPPORT FOR HIM TO SECGEN AND TO COOPERATE WITH DANES IN ADVANCING HIS CANDIDACY. WE SHOULD REMAIN SUPPORTIVE OF FOIGHEL, ASSUMING HE IS STILL BEING PROMOTED BY THE DANES, EVEN IF THERE SHOULD BE G-77 INDICATIONS THAT THIS MIGHT PROMPT ITS SUPPORT OF CANDIDATE UNACCEPTABLE TO US. IF THERE ARE ARGUMENTS ON MERITS AGAINST FOIGHEL, WE HAVE YET TO HEAR THEM. AT SAME TIME, USG POSITION HAS NEVER BEEN THAT FOIGHEL IS ONLY CANDIDATE ACCEPTABLE TO US. WE HAVE REGARDED BOTH BUTLER AND ARSENIS AS FALLING IN THE "ACCEPT-
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ABLE" CATEGORY.

2. YOUR MESSAGE DOES GIVE US PAUSE ABOUT ARSENIS AND, IN VIEW OF IT, WE ARE NOT INCLINED TO TAKE ANY FURTHER INITIATIVE IN PROMOTION OF HIS CANDIDACY AT THIS JUNCTURE.

3. AS TO BUTLER, OUR INCLINATION IS TO DOUBT THAT, IF FOIGHEL'S CANDIDACY WILL NOT SUCCEED, WE ARE LIKELY TO DO BETTER THAN AN AUSTRALIAN OF HIS ABILITIES. HE HAS NO MORE EXPERIENCE WITH TNCS THAN AHMED OR ARSENIS. BUT HIS GOVERNMENTAL EXPERIENCE IS PERTINENT, HIS ABILITIES ARE RATED TO BE HIGH, AND WE DOUBT THAT HIS VIEWS OF U.S. POLICIES ARE LIKELY TO BE LESS FRIENDLY THAN THOSE OF OTHER CANDIDATES WITH EXCEPTION OF FOIGHEL. WE UNDERSTAND THAT, IN MEETINGS IN NY WITH VARIOUS LEADING TNC FIGURES, BUTLER MADE AN EXCELLENT IMPRESSION.

4. IF CANDIDACY OF AHMED IS ACTUALLY ADVANCED, WE SHALL BE PREPARED TO TAKE AN OPEN-MINDED LOOK AT IT IN THE SAME MANNER AS WITH ARSENIS AND BUTLER, BUT USUN SHOULD NOT OF COURSE PROMOTE OR INDICATE SUPPORT OF AHMED PENDING DEPARTMENTAL CONSIDERATION. KISSINGER

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